

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195390

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 24959 ACTION SECSTATE INFO

PEKING MOSCOW HONG KONG 21 SEPT

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24959

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR, PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT: POMPIDOU

TRIP TO CHINA

REF: PARIS 24933

1. SUMMARY. IN MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT SEPTEMBER 21
LARGELY DEVOTED TO CHINA JOBERT MENTIONED PRESIDENT POMPIDOU WAS
ABOUT TO SEND A FIRST HAND REPORT TO PRESIDENT NIXON. JOBERT COMM-
ENTED ON CHINESE VIEWS ON CAMBODIA, FEARS OF THE SOVIET UNION,
CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SOUTH ASIA, ABSENCE OF CRITICISM OF
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THE U.S., CONCERN OVER JAPANESE ECONOMIC POWER AND INVOLVEMENT WITH
U.S. IN SIBERIA, POSSIBLE EVENTUAL PRC
ACCEPTANCE OF TWO KOREAS IN THE UN, AND SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN
UNITY AS A COUNTER WEIGHT TO THE SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

2. LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON: I ASKED JOBERT FOR HIS GENERAL IMPRESSIONS FROM THE POMPIDOU TRIP TO CHINA. JOBERT REPLIED THAT POMPIDOU WAS ABOUT TO SEND A LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON REPORTING ON THE CHINA TRIP, JOBERT HAVING SENT A DRAFT TO THE ELYSEE THAT MORNING.

3. CAMBODIA. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT CHINESE SUPPORT FOR SIHANOUK JOBERT SAID THAT IN SPITE OF THE COMMUNIQUE HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT CHOU AGREED WITH HIM THAT SIHANOUK WAS TOO TALKATIVE. JOBERT SAID SIHANOUK IS ALWAYS MAKING STATEMENTS, AGAINST THE U.S., AGAINST THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER AND ACCORDING TO THIS MORNING'S WIRE SERVICES, EVEN AGAINST THE CHINESE. AS TO WHAT SOLUTION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN CAMBODIA JOBERT SAID MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT THE U.S. POSITION WAS. HE COMMENTED HE KNEW THE CHINESE POSITION BETTER THAN HE DID THE U.S. POSITION, BUT DID NOT STATE WHAT IT WAS. IF THERE WERE TO BE A SOLUTION TO THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM THE "SALAD", JOBERT SAID, WOULD HAVE TO CONTAIN SOME "SIHANOUK SAUCE". INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH JOBERT SAID THE CHINESE DID NOT MENTION SOUTH VIETNAM, WHICH CONTRASTED WITH THEIR CONCERN OVER THE CAMBODIAN SITUATION.

4. SOVIET UNION. JOBERT CONFIRMED THE CHINESE PREOCCUPATION WITH THE SOVIET MENACE. HE SAID IN CONTRAST THE CHINESE HAD NOTHING BAD TO SAY ABOUT THE U.S. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION AS TO HOW MUCH CHINESE CONCERN WITH THE SOVIET MENACE WAS GENUINE AND HOW MUCH FOR PURPOSES OF INTERNAL PROPAGANDA, JOBERT SAID HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS REAL CONCERN EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ALSO ESSENTIAL FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO POINT TO AN EXTERNAL FOE. BECAUSE THE U.S. NO LONGER WAS TREATED AS AN EXTERNAL FOE IT WAS USEFUL TO HAVE MOSCOW FOR THAT ROLE. HE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT CHINA'S CHIEF CONCERN WAS THAT THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT ENGINEER A COUP IN CHINA, PERHAPS, BUT NOT NECESSARILY, IN CONNECTION WITH A MILITARY ATTACK ALONG THE BORDER, TO INSTALL COMMUNISTS MORE FAVORABLE TO MOSCOW. THEY SEEMED TO FEAR THIS MORE THAN THE DANGER THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT PHYSICALLY CONQUER CHINA.

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5. SOUTH ASIA. THE CHINESE ALSO MENTIONED THEIR FEAR OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN, INCLUDING PRESSURE ON BHUTTO IN PAKISTAN. JOBERT SAID THE CHINESE WERE PREDICTING SOME SOVIET COUP IN THE AREA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U.S. THE CHINESE HAD NOTHING BAD TO SAY ABOUT THE U.S. THEY NO LONGER BURNED PAPER TIGERS IN THE STREETS. OF COURSE THEY CONSIDER THE U.S. TO BE A HEGEMONIC POWER, LIKE THE USSR BUT A BENEVOLENT ONE IN CONTRAST TO THE MALEVOLENT POWER TO THE NORTH. JOBERT ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT SO TOO, I.E. THAT THE U.S. WAS A HEGEMONIC POWER. I COMMENTED SUCH A VIEW WAS NOT REALITY BUT ONLY IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER. HE CONFIRMED THE REPORT CONTAINED IN PARIS 24933 THAT THE CHINESE DID NOT OBJECT TO THE IDEA OF A

CONTINUED U.S. PRESENCE IN ASIA, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NOT TRIED TO PIN THEM DOWN AS TO WHAT SORT OF PRESENCE IN WHAT AREAS OF ASIA THEY HAD IN MIND. HE HAD THE FEELING THAT THEY WERE NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE TAIWAN QUESTION WHICH THEY FELT WOULD BE SOLVED IN DUE COURSE.

7. JAPAN. THE CHINESE ARE CONCERNED AT THE CONTINUING GROWTH OF JAPAN'S GREAT ECONOMIC POWER AND HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD ACT AS A RESTRAINING INFLUENCE. THE CHINESE INDICATED THEY WOULD EVEN WELCOME JAPANESE RE-ARMAMENT BECAUSE OF THE BURDEN THIS WOULD PLACE UPON THE JAPANESE ECONOMY. I SAID I THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT THE JAPANESE WOULD SO BURDEN THEMSELVES IN ANY NEAR FUTURE, AND SUGGESTED A BETTER WAY TO SIPHON OFF SOME OF JAPAN'S EXCESS WEALTH WOULD BE FOR JAPAN TO PROVIDE MORE REAL UNTIED AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE AREA. JOBERT SAID THE CHINESE WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE U.S. AND JAPAN COOPERATING IN MINERAL EXPLOITATION IN SIBERIA. THE CHINESE BELIEVE THAT IF THE US DID NOT JOIN THE JAPANESE IN SUCH PROJECTS THE JAPANESE WOULD NOT DARE TO DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS ALONG. I COMMENTED THAT I WAS NOT SO SURE THE JAPANESE MIGHT NOT GO IT ALONE.

8. KOREA. JOBERT SAID THE FRENCH HAD ASKED THE CHINESE BEFORE THE POMPIDOU TRIP WHAT THEIR ATTITUDE WOULD BE TOWARD ADMITTING THE TWO KOREAS TO THE UN. AT THAT TIME THEY HAD BEEN TOLD THE CHINESE WERE ADAMANT THAT ONLY A SINGLE, UNIFIED KOREA BE ADMITTED. IN CHINA JOBERT HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT CHOU WAS NOT SO ADAMANT ON THIS POINT AND MIGHT BE WILLING TO SEE THE TWO KOREAS ADMITTED AT A FUTURE TIME.

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9. EUROPE. JOBERT SAID SOMEWHAT IN JEST HE HAD BEEN GREETED IN PEKING ON HIS ARRIVAL FROM COPENHAGEN AS A HERO, AND WONDERED IF HE WOULD BE SO TREATED IN NEW YORK. HE HAD APOLOGIZED TO CHOU FOR PERHAPS SEEMING UNGRACIOUS IN ARRIVING LATE, BUT CHOU HAD SAID IT WAS WELL WORTH IT BECAUSE OF WHAT JOBERT HAD ACHIEVED IN COPENHAGEN. FOR THE CHINESE, EUROPEAN UNITY WAS SOMETHING THEY STRONGLY SUPPORTED AS AN IMPORTANT COUNTER-WEIGHT TO THE SOVIET UNION. I COMMENTED THAT THEY SHOULD SIMILARLY SUPPORT ATLANTIC UNITY AND JOBERT REPLIED "PERHAPS, BUT NOT IF IT ALSO INCLUDES JAPAN."

10. CHINESE INTENTIONS. JOBERT SAID THERE HAD BEEN A LONG CONVERSATION WITH CHOU ABOUT A PASSAGE IN DEGAULLE'S MEMOIRS DESCRIBING THE CHINESE AS A PEOPLE WITH GREAT PRIDE ("ORGUEIL"). CHOU HAD OBJECTED TO THIS DESCRIPTION CLAIMING THE CHINESE WERE WITHOUT PRIDE AND HOPEFULLY WOULD REMAIN SO. CHINA WAS DESTINED SOON TO BECOME A SUPER POWER CHOU SAID AND IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE GENERATION WHICH WOULD THEN BE IN POWER NOT SUCCUMB TO PRIDE SO THAT CHINA WOULD REMAIN A CALM AND PEACEFUL NATION AND NOT TROUBLE THE PEACE OF THE WORLD. COMMENT: THE EXPLANATION FOR CHOU'S REMARKS MAY LIE IN PART IN SOME MISTRANSLATION OF THE FRENCH "ORGUEIL" BUT THE GENERAL SENTIMENT IS AN INTERESTING ONE WHICH SEEMED TO HAVE STRUCK JOBERT AS REFLECTING CHOU'S SINCERE PERSONAL FEELINGS.

IRWIN
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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